

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the grounds for rejection asserted by the Examiner in the Official Action. New Claims 6 and 7 have been added to recite additional features which are disclosed in the specification.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION

In response to the Examiner's objection, applicants note that Claim 1 is amended to recite that the second bristle support is pivotally mounted on the first bristle support. The pivotal mounting of the second bristle support to the first bristle support is clearly shown in the embodiment of FIG. 13 and described in the specification in relation to the embodiment of FIGS. 4-7. Further, from the embodiment of FIG. 13, it is clear that the top surface of the second bristle support (pivot bar 138) which carries the angled bristles 132 and the top surface of the first bristle support which carries the perpendicular bristles lie in the same plane when the top surfaces are aligned as the pivot bar 138 oscillates relative to the first bristle support. Accordingly, applicants submit that the specification contains adequate support for the claimed subject matter.

RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTION

Claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Yukawa U.S. Patent 5,504,959 in view of Japanese Patent 9-294631. Claim 1, as amended, recites a toothbrush head including: (1) a second bristle support pivotally mounted on said first bristle support, (2) a plurality of second bristles extending from a surface of the second bristle support at an acute angle to the surface, wherein at least some of the second bristles are angled away from at least some of the first bristles, and (3) the surfaces of the first and second bristle supports being capable of lying in substantially a same plane during operation of the electric toothbrush.

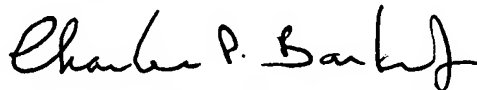
Based on the above combination of features, applicants believe that Claim 1 defines patentable subject matter over the references cited by the Examiner. Similarly, applicants believe

that combination of features recited in dependent claims 2 and 4 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references.

Claim 6 recites the second bristle support as a pivot bar mounted within an opening in the first bristle support. Claim 7 recites that the bristles on opposite sides of the pivot bar are angled in opposite directions. Applicants believe that none of these features is disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 define patentable subject matter and respectfully request allowance of these claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles P. Boukus, Jr.
Registration No. 24,754
Attorney for Applicants
Suite 202
2001 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202
(703) 415-2620

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